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SECURITY IN

Country: Vietnam

Subject: Attitudes of French and Vietnamese, Saigon

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Place Acquired:

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- met many of the local French business community in Saigon, both in a business way and socially, and discussed prospects in Indochina with them. The large business houses, as for example Denis Freres, have no intention of pulling out of the country. They believe that they will be able to operate successfully even under a purely Vietnamese government. This view is not shared by small French businessmen. The latter are mainly occupied in trying to get their money out of the country. Small business firms are constantly changing hands from one French colonial to another, each hoping to improve his financial position sufficiently to get out. The average French colonial is definitely defeatist in his outlook.
- 2. A fair amount of building is in progress in Saigon but the owners are attempting to amortize their investments within a two year period. This makes rentals extremely high and some non-French firms such as Socony-Vacuum and Shell Oil are putting up their own buildings rather than pay the exorbitant rents. 25X1X
- 3. The met a fair number of Vietnamese in a business way and found them 25X1X genuinely pro-US and anxious to do business with the US. discuss local politics with the Vietnamese. 25X1X 25X1X
- 4. met few Chinese. From French and Vietnem sources was told that the Chinese, who operate all the big gambling establishments, pay protection money to the Vietminh to prevent raids on their establishments. 25X1Age ther French nor Vietnamese regarded the Chinese as pro-Communist, and the chinese are pro-Communist.

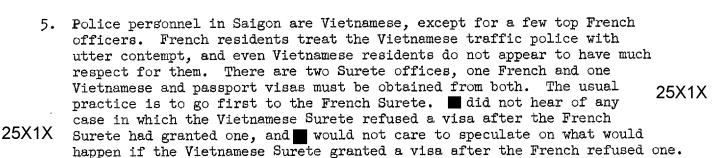


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25X1X 6. heard various opinions on the Caodaiist movement. One French rumor attributed a recent bomb outrage to the Caodaiists. On the other hand many foreigners visit the Caodaiist temple some 20 odd miles from Saigon and are well received. The average French resident regards the Caodaiists with suspicion.

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## MISSING PAGE

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